DMAP Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries November 2003

Drawing By Donald "Duck" Lacascio, Jr.
Region 4 Wildlife Forester

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) SURVEILLENCE 2003

By Larry Savage, DMAP Coordinator

The nationwide spotlight on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), the mysterious neurological disease that effects deer, has faded somewhat in the past few months. But, LDWF continues to take the potential CWD threat seriously and is in the second year of a 5-year surveillance program to determine the presence or absence of CWD in Louisiana. As reported in the last issue, no CWD was detected in the 1,258 deer tissue samples submitted to USDA laboratories by LDWF. Twelve other Southeastern states submitted 18,000 + samples in 2002 and none tested positive for CWD. However, it will take several years of exhaustive testing to confirm the status of CWD in Louisiana and the Southeast.

Volunteer DMAP cooperators played a vital role in the success of LDWF's 2002 surveillance efforts. The LDWF goal is 1,000 brain tissue samples again this year. If your DMAP unit would like to participate by submitting adult deer heads for testing, please call your local LDWF office. Typically, LDWF biologists will issue the materials and instructions necessary to volunteers on Friday and collect samples on the following Monday for tissue processing.

Clinical Suspect: Sick Deer with CWD-Like Symptoms (Skinny, Unusual Behavior, Drooling, and Excessive Drinking) ***Note: This animal died and was tested. EHD was confirmed, but it was not positive for CWD.***

Additional steps you can take to assist LDWF with CWD risk management include:

1. Aggressively support LDWF's science-based deer management recommendations and regulations.
2. Report violations of the captive deer/elk import ban (Operation Game Thief).
3. Report sick wild deer to your local LDWF office.
4. Properly manage your deer herd by harvesting the recommended number of females. Disease spreads very fast in an over-populated unhealthy deer herd.
5. Educate your group of hunters about CWD risks: www.wlf.state.la.us *(Wildlife Division-Deer Program-CWD),* www.aphis.usda.gov & www.cwd-info.org

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DMAP Harvest Summary 2002-2003

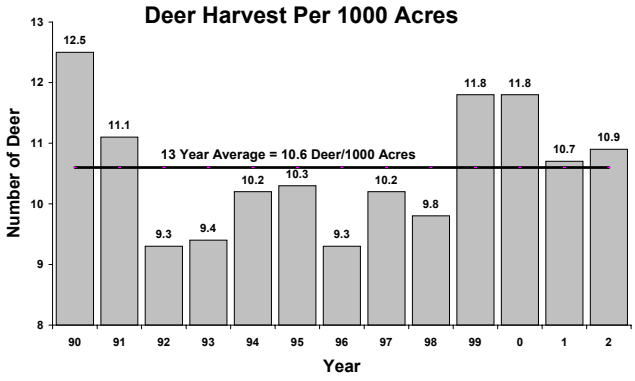
By Larry Savage, DMAP Coordinator

Trophy buck harvested by Tom Duffy on 3G AG Services DMAP Unit in Washington Parish, 2002

Despite 2 extreme summer droughts (1999 & 2000) and a record setting warm winter (2001), deer harvest on DMAP lands has been above the 13-year average for the last 4 hunting seasons. Consecutive droughts in 1999 & 2000 did take a toll on hard working does in 2001. Fawn production (as documented by lactation rates on both DMAP and WMA records) was significantly reduced (greater than 20% in 2½

year old does) in 2001. Poor body condition in does resulting from the drought years led to poor reproductive success. Harvest data from both DMAP and WMA records confirmed this decline with a below average harvest of 2002 yearlings from the 2001 fawn crop.

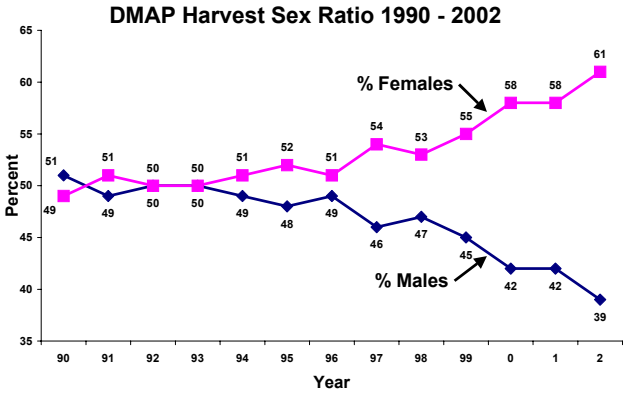
DMAP cooperators reported killing 28,334 deer on 2.6 million acres in 2002. This represents 10.9 deer harvested for each 1000 acres of DMAP property (1 deer/ 92 acres).



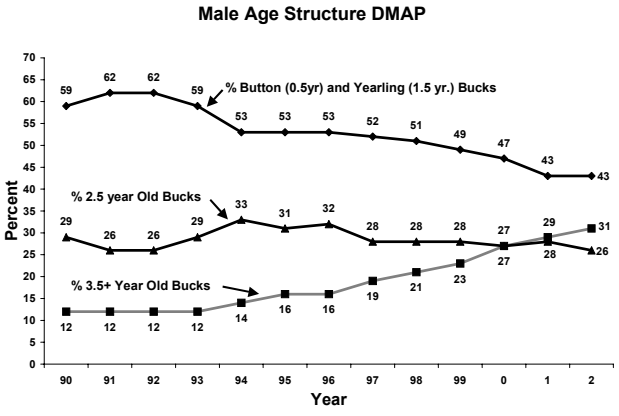
What a difference 10 years has made in Louisiana deer management! The sex ratio of reported DMAP harvest has shifted a full 10 percentage points toward female harvest. On average, 6 out of 10 deer harvested on DMAP lands are now females. Random statewide harvest surveys of *all hunters* indicate that only about 4 out of 10 deer harvested are females.

John Robinnette with 3½-year old doe from Sweetlake Iowa DMAP Unit , Calcasieu Parish, Oct. 2003.

Trends in DMAP harvest continue to show an increase in female harvest along with a corresponding voluntary decline in buck kill.



The age structure of DMAP bucks has also changed significantly in the past 10 years as DMAP cooperators pursue voluntary quality buck management. The component of young bucks in the harvest has declined by about 20% over the long-term with no change the last two years. Bucks 2½ years old have been killed at about the same rate during this 10-year period. The proportion of 3½ year and older bucks has doubled since the mid-1990's.



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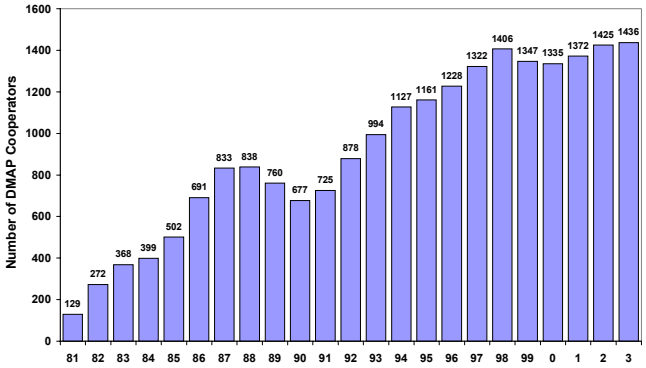
DMAP ENROLLMENT 2003

By Larry Savage, DMAP Coordinator

The fledgling Intensive Deer Management Program started in 1981 with 129 cooperators and about 200,000 acres. In 2003, 1,436 cooperators voluntarily have enrolled 2.6 million acres and contributed $172,275 to the LDWF Conservation Fund.

Temporary declines in enrollment were experienced in 1989 with institution of DMAP fees and in 1999 with the implementation of new DMAP rules to improve enforcement capability. Statewide, a shift in DMAP participation has gradually occurred with declining enrollment in Louisiana's piney woods and a corresponding increase in participation in the bottomland hardwood areas.

DMAP ENROLLMENT 1981 - 2003



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WEATHER WILL DICTATE RUT ACTIVITY DURING THE SEASON

By David Moreland, Deer Program Manager

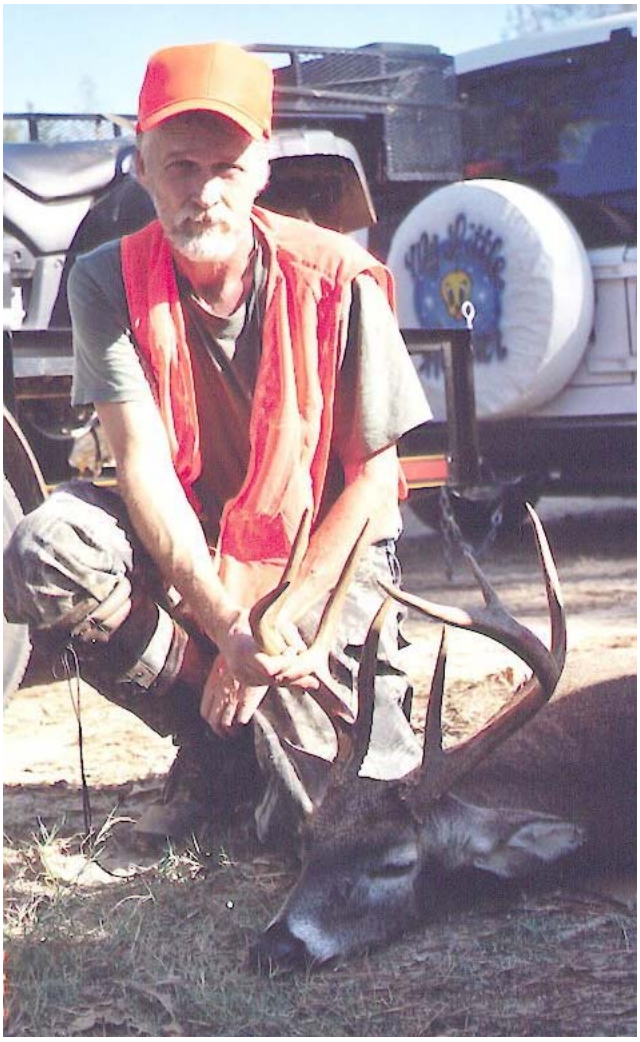
State climatologist Jay Grymes described the week of Oct. 27- Nov. 2 as another warm and dry week for the Bayou State. This was bad news for Area 2 deer hunters since the muzzleloader season opened on Oct. 25 and the regular gun season opened on Nov. 1. October 25 was warm and humid, not real conducive for deer hunting. A cold front pushed through Saturday evening and made for better hunting conditions Sunday. This front was short-lived and the remainder of the muzzleloader week was unusually warm. These warmer than normal temperatures persisted through the weekend, which was the opening of the regular gun season for Area 2.

Hunter success on the wildlife management areas located in Area 2 has been limited. Not only has deer activity been slow, hunter effort has been low as well.

On Fort Polk WMA, examination of reproductive tracts indicated little ovulation. However, bucks had been actively working scrapes based upon the staining of the tarsal glands. There was one 5½-year old buck harvested; this was a 175 pound 10-pointer, with 19" beams, 4" bases, and a 13" inside spread. This buck had excellent kidney fat, an indication that it was building up its energy supply for the upcoming rut. An analysis of stomachs from harvested deer revealed high use of greenbriar, yellow jessamine, winged sumac browse and fruit, fungi, and acorns. Most of the acorns were in the red oak group with very little white oak mast.

One of type of mushroom eaten by deer on Union WMA.

On the Union WMA during the Nov. 1-2 weekend, most of the buck kill consisted of 1½-year old bucks. There were two nice adult bucks harvested; one was a 3½-year old 8-pointer that weighed 160 pounds and had an 18" inside spread. The other buck was a 3½-year old 9-pointer that weighed 185 pounds. Both of these deer also had good kidney fat levels. The 9-pointer had eaten large quantities of winged sumac fruit and the other buck fed on red oak acorns. Just like at Fort Polk WMA, most of the hard mast found in the stomachs were red oaks, although there was one doe that was full of the large cow oak acorns. On Union WMA deer also were eating greenbriar, yellow jessamine, fungi, French mulberry, and acorns.



9-point killed by B. Haygood on Union WMA, Fall 2003.

Warm weather really slows down deer activity and most movement is at night when it is cooler. The cold fronts that have come into the state have been short-lived. The muzzleloader season for Areas 1 and 6 open on November 15; perhaps old man winter will increase his activity in the south and make the Thanksgiving holiday a little better for the deer hunter. The warm weather is keeping the woods green, giving the deer forage opportunity on the native plants. With the low to moderate mast crop, food plots may work well in the late season if the cold weather comes.

The Deer Section is finishing a new publication concerning the woody and herbaceous deer food plants of Louisiana. It should be available next spring. Hunters and landowners will both benefit from the publication.

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THE REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF WHITE-TAILED DEER IN NORTH-CENTRAL AND NORTHWEST LOUISIANA—THESIS—MASTER OF SCIENCE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE 2002

By Jeremy White, ULM Wildlife Master's Thesis Candidate

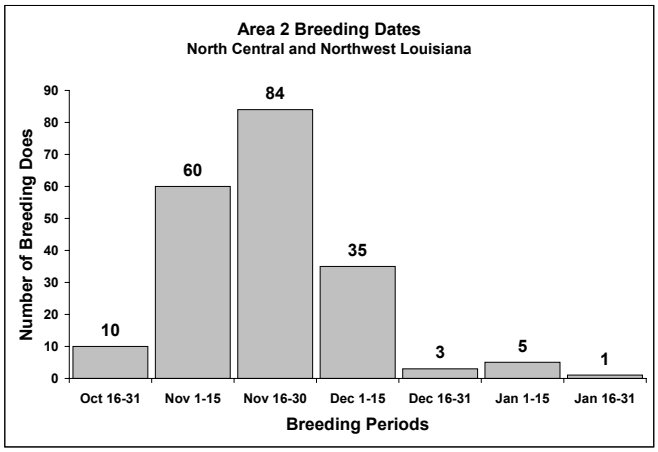
ABSTRACT:

Between the time periods of October 2000 – June 2001 and October 2001-April 2002, a total of 1,296 reproductive tracts were collected from white-tailed does in 15 parishes in north central and northwest Louisiana. Two hundred twenty-one of the reproductive tracts had measurable fetuses (that allowed the determination of precise breeding dates). Four hundred fifty-three showed no reproductive activity. The study area consisted of oak-pine forest, pine plantation, and bottomland hardwood forest.

The peak breeding period for the study occurred from November 16 to November 30. Forty-two percent of the does were bred in this time frame. Forty-seven percent of the does collected from October 2000 to 2001 were bred during this period and 39% of the does collected from October 2001 to April 2002 were bred during this period.

Three hundred eighty-five fetuses were collected from 221 pregnant does: 75 singles (19%), 152 sets of twins (79%), and two sets of triplets (2%). There was an average of 1.74 fetuses per doe. Yearling does produced an average of 1.41 fetuses, and adult does had an average of 1.73 fetuses per doe. An average of 1.1 males per female was obtained for the entire sample.

A ratio of 1.90 ova shed per doe was determined for the entire area. Yearling does exhibited a ratio of 1.45 ova per doe, and adult does had a ratio of 1.95 ova per doe. The average reproductive efficiency for all does was 0.93. Yearling does had a reproductive efficiency of 0.97, and adult does had a reproductive efficiency of 0.89.



LDWF and the ULM Biology Department would like to extend a special thanks to all the DMAP cooperators who worked so hard to make this project possible. DMAP volunteers collected the majority of the 1,296 reproductive tracts. These reproductive data are used to help make deer season and management recommendations. Thank you!

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MORTALITY AND EMIGRATION OF A WHITE-TAILED DEER POPULATION IN THE COASTAL PLAIN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

By Charles Ruth, Deer Project Supervisor, SCDNR

South Carolina deer researchers placed radio-transmitters on 162 deer to determine the mortality and emigration rates for bucks and does by age class and to determine the specific causes of mortalities. This research was conducted on Back Woods Quail Club, a 14,000 acre piney-woods tract managed for quality bucks. Deer harvest strategies included antler restrictions of 8 points for still hunters and 6 points for dog hunters, as well as, all hunters could freely harvest females during S. Carolina's liberal either-sex season.

MORTALITY – Defined as the annual death rate for each age class and sex. Mortality rates were higher for males than females. Male mortality rates increased with age from 28% (½ -1½ yrs.) to 52% (1½-2½ yrs.) to 70% (2½-3½ yrs.). **At 3½ – 4½ years of age all radio-collared males (100%) had died**. Female mortality was much lower and remained constant at 14% to 18% per year for all age classes. Two types of mortality occurred, hunting and non-hunting (predators or vehicle collisions). Non-hunting causes of mortality were more severe at early ages for both sexes and overall for females. Male mortality was equally distributed between the two types for the first two years, but **hunting became the exclusive cause of mortality after 2.5 years of age. Hunting mortality that occurred off the property was 36% for males and 0% for females.**

EMIGRATION – Defined as the one-way movement of young animals from their birthplace to a new permanent home range or movement of adult deer when their living area becomes unsuitable. In this study emigration occurred almost exclusively in males and it occurred in the ½ to 1½ year class during the period from September to December. Overall, about 50% of ½ -1½-year old bucks emigrated from the area in which they were born. **Seventy-one percent of these emigrating males left the property**, while 29% emigrated to sites within the boundaries of the property and remained available for future harvest by the club. **Only one female, at 2½ years old, emigrated during the 4 years of observations.**

Table 1. The loss (mortality + emigration) of deer from Back Woods Quail Club at various ages beginning with a sample of 100 males and females at age ½ (fawns).

Age	Females	Males
0.5	100	100
1.5	83	50
2.5	65	22
3.5	55	5
4.5	48	0

Of the original 100 bucks in this study, zero were available for harvest on the property after 4 years. In contrast, at the end of the fourth year there were still 48 does remaining on the property and these deer would be available for harvest in the future.

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EFFECTS OF SELECTIVE HARVEST STRATEGIES ON WHITE-TAILED DEER ANTLER SIZE, *WILDLIFE SOCIETY BULLETIN* 2001, 29(2)

By Bronson Strickland, Stephen Demarais, Larry Castle, Jim Lipe, William Luncefore, Harry Jacobson, Don Frels, and Karl Miller

(This article contains highlights of a study published in the major scientific journal for wildlife biologists.)

In 1995 Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks established a statewide harvest restriction known as the "4-point rule". This selective-harvest strategy prohibited the harvest of bucks with only 2 or 3 antler points and was designed to protect younger-aged bucks and increase the number of older-aged bucks in the population. Many biologists are concerned about the potential for a long-term negative impact on future antler size resulting from "high-grading" young bucks. "High-grading" is the selective protection of the smaller antlered young bucks (2 & 3 points) and harvesting the larger antlered young bucks(4, 6 & 8 points). The potential effect of "high-grading" on future antler growth was evaluated in this study.

Age-specific antler size of bucks harvested were categorized within 3 soil resource regions of Mississippi to determine if regional variation occurred in the effect of the "4-point rule". Harvest data from state WMAs and DMAP cooperators (1991-1994) were sorted by 3 soil regions including Delta (high productivity-bottomland hwds.), Upper Coastal Plain (moderate productivity-pine/pine-hwds), and Lower Coastal Plain (low productivity-pineywoods). The proportions of harvested males that would have been protected using increments of inside spread, total number of antler points, and main beam lengths were compared for each soil region.

A simulation model was used to estimate the effects that various antler restrictions (4 pt, 6 pt, 8 pt etc.) and harvest rates had on the future antler size in older bucks. Key model components included (1) antler records from 220 known-aged bucks from captive herds in the south and (2) harvest rates of low (25%), intermediate (50%), and high (75%).

Antler size by age-class of the harvest was compared from Mississippi Wildlife Management Areas before and after the implementation of the "4-point rule".

Results:

- Selective harvest that protected smaller-antlered young males and permitted the harvest of larger antlered young males reduced the antler size in older age-classes in subsequent years if the harvest rate of vulnerable males was high (75% or greater).
- Antler size of 2.5 and 3.5-year males declined on a WMA in the Delta soil region after implementation of the "4-point rule" but did not change on two other soil regions (Upper Coastal Plains, Lower Coastal Plains).
- The proportion of yearling males protected was different among the 3 soil regions for various selective harvest criterions. Therefore, knowledge of regional, age-specific antler size is necessary to formulate a selective harvest criteria that protects a majority of young males while permitting the harvest of smaller antlered, older males.
- **We conclude selective harvest criteria that protects smaller-antlered young males (4-point rule) coupled with high harvest rates (75% or more) of vulnerable young males may negatively impact antler size in older age classes in future years on some areas (Delta soil region).**

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BREEDING ACTIVITY OF LOUISIANA DEER FOR 2003

By David Moreland, Deer Program Manager

The 2002 harvest of LA Recognition deer (see list) gives an insight into the breeding activity of LA deer (see Breeding Date Map on Page 11. The really large bucks are generally harvested during the times of peak breeding activity. The 2002 buck harvest was exceptionally good and clearly

demonstrates when the bucks are active in each area. Of course, hunter disturbance comes into play and hunters and managers who keep their activity low during the early season have a better opportunity to harvest an older buck before the deer become aware that hunting season is open and their domain has been invaded with two-legged predators.

In 2003, peak breeding activity for each area should occur around the middle of each month and will allow good hunting opportunity for hunters with the 2003/04 season structure.

Area 2- Area 2 hunters probably have the best season structure in the state. Bow hunting opens just prior to pre-rut activity and when fawns are 4-5 months old. The muzzleloader season opens during the pre-rut activity period and the gun season opens for the first peak of breeding activity. Gun hunters also will be able to hunt during the entire second peak of breeding activities and the season closes at the time activity levels are declining. For 2003 the first peak of breeding activity should be around Nov. 16, the pre-rut would have occurred between Oct. 25 and Nov. 9. The second peak would be a month later.

Areas 3, 7, & 8- While some of these areas have the same breeding schedule as Area 2, most of it has earlier breeding activities. Pre-rut activity should have been from Sept. 26-Oct. 10 with the first peak breeding activity around Oct. 17. The second peak of breeding activity will occur at the same time as the first peak of Area 2. Hunters in these areas also have the opportunity to hunt the entire breeding season.

Areas 1, 4, & 5- December is the month when breeding activity generally begins. Parishes along the Mississippi River tend to follow a later schedule (more like Area 6) than the other parishes within these regions. The pre-rut schedule is Nov. 23-Dec. 8, with the first peak of breeding activity around Dec. 15. The second peak of activity will occur in mid-January.

Area 6- The upper half of Area 6 probably has the latest breeding activity of any area in the state. The outlook for this year will allow hunters to hunt the first peak of activity if they haven't burned out and spent all their hunting days in Nov. and Dec. Pre-rut should occur from Dec. 23-Jan. 8, with the first peak of breeding around Jan. 15. Hunters will not be able to hunt the second peak since the season will be closed. This later schedule would also apply to some of the parishes in Area 1 such as W. Feliciana, Concordia, Madison, and Tensas.

2002-03 Louisiana Big Game Recognition Deer

Score	Parish	Date	Weapon	Area
171 7/8- T	W. Feliciana	01/09/03	Gun	1
171 3/8-NT	W. Feliciana	01/19/03	Gun	1
146 -T	3R WMA	11/29/02	Gun	1
133 6/8-T	Concordia	01/28/03	Bow	1
131 6/8-T	E. Feliciana	12/02/02	Gun	1
119 2/8-T	E. Feliciana	01/25/03	ML	1
118 2/8-T	E. Feliciana	12/06/02	ML	1
116 -T	E. Feliciana	01/23/03	ML	1
115 2/8-T	T. R. NWR	01/06/03	Bow	1
163 3/8-T	Jackson	12/27/02	Gun	2
156 5/8-T	Claiborne	11/09/02	Gun	2
156 4/8-T	DeSoto	12/08/02	Gun	2
155 2/8-T	Natchitoches	11/29/02	Gun	2
148 3/8-T	Red River	12/05/02	Gun	2
145 3/8-T	Natchitoches	11/29/02	Gun	2
143 4/8-T	Webster	11/26/02	Gun	2
143 4/8-T	C. Beau. WMA	12/07/02	ML	2
142 7/8-T	Red River	01/04/03	Gun	2
141 2/8-T	Red River	12/01/02	Gun	2
140 4/8-T	Natchitoches	12/21/02	Gun	2
138 1/8-T	Webster	12/01/02	Gun	2
137 -T	Webster	12/24/02	Gun	2
135 3/8-NT	Vernon	10/29/02	ML	2
135 1/8-T	Evangeline	10/27/02	ML	2
133 1/8-T	DeSoto	11/08/02	Gun	2
130 5/8-T	Red River	11/29/02	Gun	2
128 7/8-T	Jackson	10/29/02	Bow	2
124 5/8-T	Webster	11/18/02	Bow	2
144 4/8-T	Vernon	10/26/02	Gun	3
143 7/8-T	E.Carroll	12/12/02	Bow	4
174 6/8-T	Avoyelles	01/10/03	Gun	6
158 1/8-T	Thistle. WMA	01/03/03	ML	6
154 4/8-T	L. O. NWR	01/04/03	ML	6
153 3/8-T	Avoyelles	12/01/02	Gun	6
149 -T	St. Martin	01/12/03	Gun	6
147 5/8-T	Avoyelles	01/22/03	Gun	6
141 6/8-T	St. John	12/15/02	Gun	6
138 5/8-T	Avoyelles	12/09/02	Gun	6

T = Typical NT = Non-Typical

DMAP Biologists

MICHAEL PEROT is a Region 7 (Baton Rouge) Wildlife Biologist that has worked 5 years for LDWF. Michael paid his dues as a student worker for Fur & Refuge and Inland Fisheries Divisions for 3 years while going to LSU. He has a B. S. in Wildlife Management (2001) and a B. S. F. Forest Management (2002) from LSU. For the last two years, Michael has worked with the Wildlife Division as a Wildlife Biologist responsible for the southern portion (New Orleans) of Region 7. Primary responsibilities include supervisor for Pearl River and Hutchinson Creek WMAs and biologist for 65 DMAP units in St. James, St. John, St. Charles, LaFourche, St Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes. Mike cut his teeth deer hunting with his dad on the Buffalo Hole DMAP Club in Union Parish. Welcome to the marsh Mike!

Mike Perot preparing to extract CWD samples.

DAVID HAYDEN is a wildlife biologist in Region 3 (Tioga). He attended Auburn University where he received a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Science in 2000 and a Masters of Forestry in 2002. His MF thesis dealt with forest management practices on wildlife management areas in Alabama. His primary responsibilities include managing Catahoula Lake and the DMAP data for 135 cooperators. Among his other responsibilities David also assists in the wildlife management on Elblow Slough, Alexander State Forest, Camp Beauregard, Dewey Wills, Little River, and Sabine WMAs. David has enjoyed hunting and fishing all of his life and appreciates being able to insure the same outdoor opportunities for future generations. Wildlife management runs in David's family. His dad received a Master's degree in Wildlife Management from LSU and is currently a biologist with the Alabama DNR Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries.


David Hayden conducting black bear habitat assessment.

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DEER TALES

UNUSUAL BIRTH DEFECT

By Larry Savage, DMAP Coordinator

Jerry Collins, Fisheries Technician at the LDWF Tioga office, harvested a very unusual maiden doe while hunting on the HWY 1228 Hunting Club in Winn Parish. On a rainy November day in 2001, Jerry spotted two deer approaching his stand. One had an unusual appearance, but before Jerry could determine the problem both spooked and ran into a nearby thicket. Later the abnormal looking deer came back out, got down on its front knees and began to feed from the ground. At this time, Jerry could see the deer's neck was extremely short, requiring the deer to kneel to reach food. Jerry decided to harvest this deer due to its deformity. From the photo, the deer appears to suffer form a serious birth defect that significantly shortened its neck. Moderate wear on its knees indicated this unusual feeding posture had been common practice.

When selecting management does, hunters often refer to the perfect choice as being one of those "old long-necked" does. In reality the best choice when filling your doe quota is any animal you can positively identify as a female, regardless of its age (or neck length). Hunting mortality should duplicate natural mortality with animals being taken from all age-classes. Even with its record-class short neck, Jerry's decision to take this doe was a good one and helped balance the sex ratio of his deer herd.

Doe with shortened neck which required her to kneel when eating acorns or other food on the forest floor.

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Antlered Doe

By Larry Savage, DMAP Coordinator

Mr. Thomas Murphy watched from his favorite stand as a doe walked nervously out into the pipeline and look back. As he had done many times in the past, he slipped the safety off, ready for the buck that would surely follow. On cue, a nice 170-pound deer with a 13-inch six-point rack stepped out, lowered its head to the ground and followed the trail of the doe.

Mr. Murphy's aim was true and everything went according to a very familiar script until he started to load the animal. When he picked up the hind leg to move the "buck", something didn't seem right. Closer inspection revealed the standard buck equipment was missing and in its place was the female version. Mr. Murphy quickly went to the front end to again to check the antlers, first to be sure they were still there and second to see if they were real and not some prank pulled by his fellow Buffalo Hole hunting club members. Mother Nature, however, had orchestrated the prank in the form of an antlered doe.

LDWF offices get several calls a year reporting antlered does being harvested in the state. Historical Pennsylvania records indicate 39 antlered females out of 173,038 antlered bucks harvested over a four-year period (about one out of every 4,400 does).

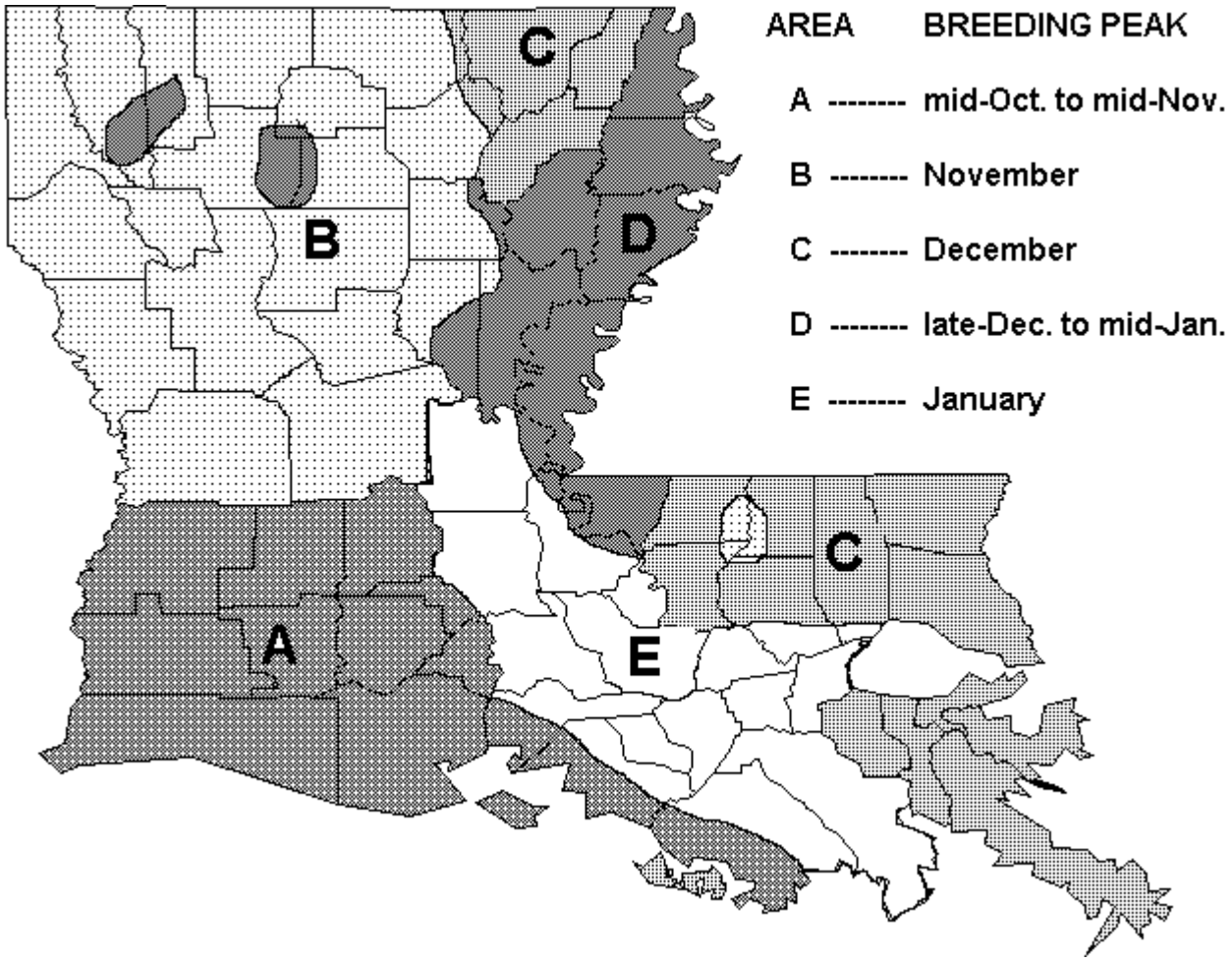
Reindeer and Caribou are the only female deer to routinely grow antlers. However, it appears that all white-tailed does have the latent capacity to produce antlers under unusual circumstances. Antlers have been experimentally produced on females by artificially introducing male hormones and then causing injury to the site of antler growth. Females do not ordinarily grow antlers because as fawns the female hormone estrogen suppresses establishment of their antler pedicles. However, pedicles and antlers do grow when a female fetus is exposed to an abnormally high level of the male hormone, testosterone.

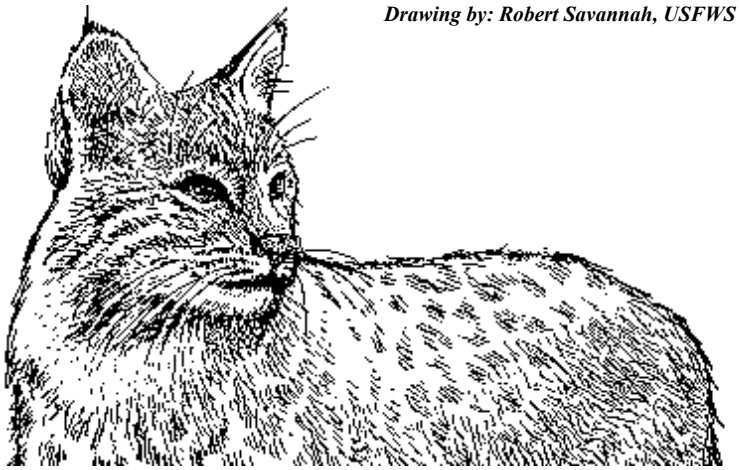
Many antlered does carry small velvet antlers or only one antler. Antlered does can be fertile and produce normal fawns. Antlers on does can be a genetically inherited trait, or the results of hermaphroditism (both male and female sex organs), pathological conditions (tumor on the adrenal gland), or the influence of testosterone produced in the womb by a twin brother (possibly due to fused placentas.

Regardless of the reason, Mr. Murphy is proud of his trophy doe which is mounted in his home. Buffalo Hole members have participated in DMAP since 1986 and have harvested over 1,400 deer from their 4,700-acre pineywoods club in Union Parish. Some members quipped that DMAP had worked so well on Buffalo Hole that it has grown antlers on their does.

Antlered doe taken by Thomas Murphy on Buffalo Hole Hunting Club, Union Parish, 2002.

White-tailed Deer Peak Breeding Dates Based on LDWF Studies





Drawing by: Robert Savannah, USFWS

Bobcat Survey

This past fall, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopted a hunting season on bobcat. Regulations state that properly licensed big game hunters may take a bobcat during the open deer hunting season in all deer hunting areas including Wildlife Management Areas. The season limit on bobcats taken by recreational deer hunters shall be one. Legal shooting hours and methods of take shall be the same as those for deer in each area of the state. Pelting of bobcats is only permitted by properly licensed trappers during the open trapping season.

In an effort to gather additional data on abundance, distribution, and harvest of bobcat, we are requesting DMAP Clubs to participate in this voluntary survey. There are 5 basic questions:

1. How many club members shot a bobcat? _____
2. How many club members saw a bobcat? _____
3. How many different bobcats were sighted? _____
4. Is the bobcat population on your club: stable _____ increasing _____ decreasing _____
5. Location where bobcats were sighted:
   ➔in food plots _____ ➔near feeders _____ ➔natural habitat _____

For your convenience, the following log sheets are provided. ***Please submit with your DMAP Kill Records.***

Club Name: _____ Parish: _____

Date	# of Members Seeing Bobcats	Total # of Different Bobcats Seen	Location

Date	# of Members Seeing Bobcats	Total # of Different Bobcats Seen	Location

The DMAP Newsletter is printed twice a year to assist DMAP Cooperators with the intensive management of deer and habitat resources and to enhance the recreational enjoyment derived from these resources. It also updates cooperators with information on the administration of the program. **DMAP contact people who receive the newsletter directly are encouraged to pass it to as many of their members as possible.** Please forward any questions or comments about DMAP or the DMAP Newsletter to:

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